Remarks/Arguments

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the
claim chart provided in this Office Action. Such a chart
aids in providing a clear understanding of the specific
arguments in question.

Specification

Examiner:

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new
title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention
to which claims are directed.

Response:

As requested in the "Amendments to the Specification"
on page 2 of this response, the title as been changed as
required. No new material has been introduced.
Reconsideration of the specification in light of the amended
title is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Examiner:

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being
anticipated by Waibel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,855,000).
Claims 2-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being
obvious over Waibel et al., and further in view of Larkey
(5,127,055) and Carman, II (5,454,046).

Response:

Waibel et al. disclose an input "repair" device that

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uses a cross-modal secondary input when it is necessary to correct an error generated by the first input. In Waibel et al., a primary input of a first modal (such as speech) is used to generate written text (Col.9, line 59). If an error is discovered in the generated text, then a secondary modal input (such as handwriting) can be used to correct the error (Col.9, lines 61-65). Although Waibel et al. describe several methods of "error discovery" and correction, it is noted that a second input is not necessary unless an error has been detected. If an error is detected and the user inputs a second modal input, the "correction" consists of replacing the error word(s) in the generated text by the corrected word(s) (Col.11, lines 6-8).

The present application discloses an input method for inputting text that combines verbal and handwritten inputs. Both inputs are intended to occur at approximately the same time. A first list of possible words or characters occurring in the verbal input is generated according to a speech recognition algorithm. A second list of possible words or characters occurring in the handwritten input is generated according to a character recognition algorithm. A third list that is the intersection of words or characters from the first list and the second list is then generated and presented to the user, allowing the user to select the correct word or character from the third list (Paragraph 2 of the "Summary of the Invention" and Fig.4).

Waibel et al. provide a method of correcting previously inputted text. Waibel et al. do not disclose providing the user with a list of possibilities that is an intersection of the first and second inputs, but merely substitute a

single new hypothesis after a user indicates an error in the original input.

On the other hand, the present invention does not correct text, but facilitates inputting the original text by allowing the user to choose the correct word(s) or character(s) from a list of possibilities that is the intersection of speech and handwritten inputs. Claim 1 has been amended to distinctly point out and claim this distinction.

Therefore, and without disclaimer as to their merits as originally filed, because the allowability of claims 2-8 ultimately depends upon the allowability of the amended claim 1, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the amended claim 1 and claims 2-8 dependent thereon.

Sincerely,

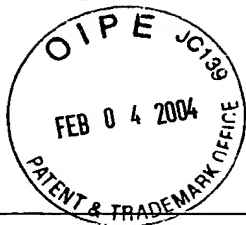*Winston Hsu*   Date: 1/30/2004

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